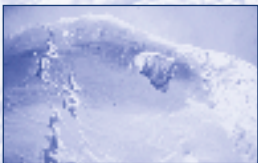


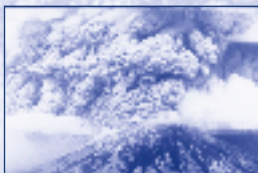
The **Unpredictable Nature of MOUNT SAINT HELENS**



Mount St. Helens was known as “the Fuji of America” because its symmetrical beauty was similar to that of the famous Japanese volcano.



An earthquake at the base of Mount St. Helens marked the re-awakening of this 40,000 year old volcano that had been dormant since 1857.



On May 18, 1980, a 9-hour eruption blew about 4 billion cubic yards of new magmatic material more than 15 miles into the air.



The lateral blast, which lasted only the first few minutes of the eruption, devastated more than 150 sq. miles of forest and recreation area, killed countless animals, and left about 60 persons dead or missing.



Mount St. Helens on May 19, 1982, seen from Harrys Ridge, five miles north of the mountain.

Mount St. Helens

January 3, 2005



Growth of the new lava dome inside the crater continues, accompanied by low rates of seismicity, low emissions of steam and volcanic gases, and minor puffs of ash. A new eruption could occur suddenly with little warning. Such is the unpredictable nature of volcanoes throughout the Cascade Range.



Native cultures in the Pacific Northwest—Salish and Klickitat Indians—called Mount St. Helens Loo-Wit Lat-kla or Louwala-Clough (fire mountain or smoking mountain.)

According to one legend, when two sons of the Great Spirit “Sahale” fell in love with her, she could not choose between them. The two braves, Wyeast and Klickitat fought over her, burying villages and forests in the process. Sahale was furious. He smote the three lovers and erected a mighty mountain peak where each fell. Because Loowit was beautiful, her mountain (Mount St. Helens) was a beautiful, symmetrical cone of dazzling white. Wyeast (Mount Hood) lifts his head in pride, but Klickitat (Mount Adams) wept to see the beautiful maiden wrapped in snow, so he bends his head as he gazes on St. Helens.



Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division

Washington's Cascade Range hosts five active volcanoes: Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams. To learn if you live, work or go to school in a volcano hazard zone, visit these Web sites:

Emergency Management Division
www.emd.wa.gov

US Geological Survey
<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov>